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HOUSE MEMORIAL 33

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE SAN JUAN-CHAMA PROJECT, WATER CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ESPANOLA, THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SANTA FE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BE CHANGED TO A REPAYMENT PERPETUAL AGREEMENT AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ADDRESSING A MULTICOUNTY REGION.

WHEREAS, by the act of congress approved June 13, 1962 (76 Stat. 96), congress approved the initial stage of the San Juan-Chama project, Colorado-New Mexico as a participating project of the Colorado river storage project; and

WHEREAS, the San Juan-Chama project provides water to the multicounty region including Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Sandoval, Bernalillo and Valencia counties as well as tribal governments, municipalities and other entities; and

WHEREAS, the San Juan-Chama project is approved for

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1 furnishing water throughout the multicounty region for
2 municipal, domestic and industrial uses and other beneficial
3 purposes; and

4 WHEREAS, the city of Espanola, located in Rio Arriba and
5 Santa Fe counties, and the United States department of the
6 interior entered into an agreement date February 16, 1978
7 whereby the city was allocated one thousand acre-feet per year
8 of water from the San Juan-Chama project; and

9 WHEREAS, the city and county of Santa Fe and the United
10 States department of the interior entered into an agreement
11 dated November 23, 1976 whereby the city and county were
12 allocated five thousand six hundred five acre-feet of water
13 from the San Juan-Chama project; and

14 WHEREAS, the city of Espanola and the city and county of
15 Santa Fe have utilized the project water to offset excess water
16 usage from its municipal wells and intends to construct a water
17 filtration facility utilizing project water; and

18 WHEREAS, existing and future users of water within the
19 city of Espanola and the city and county of Santa Fe are
20 dependent upon a reliable, sustainable supply of protect water
21 now and over the long term; and

22 WHEREAS, the agreement between the city of Espanola and
23 the United States department of the interior is due to expire
24 on December 31, 2018; and

25 WHEREAS, the agreement between the city and county of

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1 Santa Fe and the United States department of the interior is
2 due to expire on December 31, 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, other San Juan-Chama contractors, including the
4 city of Albuquerque, the middle Rio Grande conservancy
5 district, the Pojoaque valley irrigation district, the town of
6 Bernalillo, the city of Belen and the town of Red River, all
7 have repayment perpetual agreements; and

8 WHEREAS, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Cochiti
9 reservoir recreational pool have agreements that can only be
10 terminated by an act of congress;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support,
13 consistent with other regional agreements, the city of
14 Espanola, the city and county of Santa Fe and all other
15 entities that have or may have water service agreements with
16 the United States department of the interior for San Juan-Chama
17 project water allotments to have those water service agreements
18 converted to repayment perpetual agreements; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 delivered to the secretary of the United States department of
21 the interior and to the New Mexico congressional delegation.